

WEST DEAN COLLEGE

MAKE YOUR OWN GLASS TABLEWARE

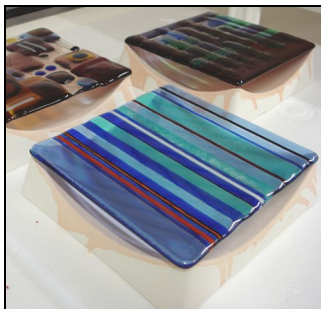
Level of ability:

Beginner

Intermediate

Course duration:

FOUR DAY COURSE: Evening 8–10pm
 Days 1–3: 9am–5pm
 Day 4: 9am–3pm



Aims of course:

This course will introduce you to the exciting possibilities of warm glass, using fusing and slumping techniques to form glass in the kiln. With a focus on designing and making a matching set of glass tableware, students will be shown a range of fusing techniques using sheet glass, powdered glass frits, stringers and metal inclusions. A selection of commercial moulds will be available for slumping the glass into, including shapes to create various bowls and platters. Slumping glass into impressions made in loose plaster will allow students to explore the magic of creating texture and low-level relief in a glass surface.

What students should achieve:

By the end of the course, students will have created a range of glass tableware: a large bowl, a small bowl and four coasters, as well as a number of other more experimental pieces in glass which will open up the possibilities of slumping. In producing this work, students will learn how to cut glass, how to combine coloured glass by fusing and how to create glass blanks suitable for slumping into a pre-bought mould. During the course students will become acquainted with the glass kiln, understanding what happens to glass in the kiln during a firing cycle, learning about glass compatibility, and how to load and unload a kiln.

Materials and techniques covered:

This course will cover simple glass cutting – cutting straight lines, gentle curves, circles and strips. Students will learn how to fuse or slump at different levels inside the kiln to achieve different effects in glass. A large selection of materials will be provided including glass sheet, powdered glass frit, stringers and noodles, metal inclusions such as copper sheet, mesh and wire. Teaching will include many demonstrations and will utilise sample pieces, slides and images in books. Handouts will cover cutting glass, kiln processes, chart the firing cycle and explain strain points, soaking and annealing.